Meeting of External Affairs Minister with US Deputy Secretary to State

1569. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached at the meeting between the External Affairs Minister and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India and the US are engaged in a bilateral dialogue on security and non proliferation issues. The talks are being conducted on the basis of the comprehensive proposals that India has put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters, our unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, willingness to discuss converting this moratorium into a *de jure* obligation, our offer to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies. The dialogue has led to some progress in creating a better understanding of India's security concerns by the US authorities. The dialogue was resumed in London on 16th and 17th November. Both sides have agreed that the purpose of the on-going dialogue is to enhance understanding of respective points of view and lay the foundation of broad-based, forward-looking and mutually beneficial relations and that it should continue. A Joint Press Statement was issued at the conclusion of the discussions in London.

Declaration of Jehad by Osama Bin Laden

1570. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have raised the issue regarding declaration of 'Jehad' against India by Islamic terrorist Osama Bill Laden at the world level; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has firmly focussed the attention of the international community of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross

border terrorism against India and of the growing nexus between Pakistan's official institutions and agencies and terrorist groups based in Pakistan and Afghanistan including the terrorist group led by Osama Bin Laden which is reported to have called for 'Jehad' against India. India has played a leading role in strengthening international consensus against terrorism in the UN, NAM, CHOGM and SAARC fora.

As a result of these efforts, there is greater international awareness and determination to combat terrorism, The UNSC adopted Resolution 1267 on October 15, 1999 imposing sanctions against the Taliban until Osama Bin Laden is brought to justice.

Collection of Relief for Orissa Cyclone Victims by Indian Embassy in USA

1571. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Embassy in U.S.A. had distanced itself in collecting and coordinating the relief for victims of Orissa cyclone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any directive has been issued by Government to Indian Embassy in U.S.A. for coordinating in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In accordance with Govemment directives, the Indian Embassy in Washington took several immediate measures to provide assistance for collection of relief for the victims of Orissa cyclone. A senior officer in the Embassy was designated as the Co-ordinating Officer. Information regarding channelising funds to Prime Minister's Relief Fund and other Relief Funds were put on the Embassy Website on a daily basis. An on-line Charity Organisation, I-Charity, was introduced to the Indian Community, which worked out an arrangement for seeking contributions through the Internet. Arrangements for airlifting of relief supplies by Air India have been publicised. The Embassy and the Consultates have also undertaken to